

**Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.****Study Area Code: 442112****Rates, Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Service****(Response to Form 481, Line 1210)**

Local exchange service rates and charges as specified below are for basic local exchange service, including Tone Dialing Service, and facilities only. The rates for other ancillary services not specifically shown below are presented in Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative's tariff(s) on file with the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Unless otherwise specified, the rates and charges quoted below are for a period of one month, payable in advance and provide unlimited flat rate calling within the local exchange calling scope.

**Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rates:<sup>(1)(2)</sup>**

<b>Exchange Name</b>	<b>R-1 Rate</b>	<b>Res. EAS Charge</b>
Bean	\$ 14.25	\$ 3.50
Cleta	\$ 14.75	\$ 3.50
Elkins	\$ 14.25	\$ 3.50
Goodnight	\$ 14.25	\$ 3.50
Gurley	\$ 14.25	\$ 3.50
Kress	\$ 14.25	\$ 3.50
Redmon	\$ 14.25	\$ 3.50
Silverton	\$ 10.60	\$ 4.60
Umbarger	\$ 14.75	\$ 3.50
Vigo Park	\$ 14.25	\$ 3.50

<sup>(1)</sup> Above listed fees do not include mandatory taxes, fees and surcharges, including, but not limited to Texas Universal Service Fund charges, 9-1-1 fees, and municipal franchise fees.

<sup>(2)</sup> Qualified Lifeline customers are eligible for Lifeline credits or discounts as outlined in the attached Lifeline tariff.

MID-PLAINS RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
TULIA, TEXAS

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5<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 13  
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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. LIFELINE PROGRAM

The Lifeline Program is a retail local service offering designed to make telephone service available at reduced rates to qualifying low-income customers.

A. General

1. A qualifying low-income customer subscribing to the Lifeline Program shall receive federal and state reductions to their monthly tariffed residential local exchange access line rate. When a Lifeline customer subscribes to a package of services, those same reductions will apply to that portion of the package rate that is for basic network service.

2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services.

3. Lifeline Programs reductions do not apply to surcharges, taxes, long distance services, 976 and other information custom calling features. Customers may obtain these services, where available, at their discretion.

4. The Lifeline Program rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges; however, customers eligible for the Tribal Link-Up Program may receive a 50% reduction not to exceed \$100.00 on applicable service connection charges as provided in Section 5 of this tariff.

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TULIA, TEXAS

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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

A. General (Continued)

6. The Cooperative may not disconnect the service of a Lifeline Program customer for the non-payment of toll charges. However, the Cooperative reserves the right to implement toll blocking, at no charge, if the customer incurs a significant balance of unpaid toll bills. The Cooperative will inform the customer, by direct mail, of this change to their service due to the customer's non-payment of toll charges. Upon the customer's payment of all outstanding toll charges, the Cooperative shall remove mandatory toll blocking at no charge.

7. Upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (in exchanges where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking.

8. The Lifeline Program rate reductions will not be available on a retroactive basis unless approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas or the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).

B. Designated Lifeline Program Services.

The Cooperative shall offer consumers qualifying for Lifeline Service the voice telephony services or functionalities enumerated in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.101(a) (relating to Supported Services for Rural, Insular and High Cost Areas).

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**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**V. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)**

**C. Eligibility Requirement**

**I. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria**

The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 150% of the annual federal poverty guidelines, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in, a program identified in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409 and in P.U.C. Substantive Rule 26.412 regarding consumer qualification for Lifeline.

The Lifeline Program rate reductions will be provided to each eligible customer. The Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) will provide a list of eligible customers to the Cooperative each month.

**2. Obligations of the Customer**

a. Customers whose annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines or who participate in Federal Public Housing Assistance or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance programs may self-enroll for the Lifeline Program benefits by completing an application form and returning it to LIDA. LIDA will send a blank application upon customer's request. LIDA can be reached at 1-866-4LITEUP. Current customers receiving Lifeline benefits will be subject to the Lifeline Program automatic enrollment procedures as provided by the LIDA unless they provide written request to the LIDA to be excluded from the Lifeline Program.

b. A customer who is eligible for the Lifeline Program but does not have telephone service at the time the LIDA provides its eligibility list to the Cooperative, shall be responsible for initiating a request for the Lifeline Program from the Cooperative.

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**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**V. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)**

**C. Eligibility Requirement (Continued)**

3. Obligations of the Cooperative

a. LIDA will provide a list of eligible customers to the Cooperative on a monthly basis. Upon receipt of the list, the Cooperative shall begin reduced billing for those customers within 30 days.

4. Discontinuance of Service

a. Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers automatically enrolled: The eligibility period for automatically enrolled customers is the length of their enrollment in Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC) benefits plus a period of 60 days for renewal. Automatically enrolled customers will have an opportunity to renew their THHSC benefits or self-enrollment with LIDA upon the expiration of their automatic enrollment.

b. Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers who have self-enrolled: Individuals not receiving benefits through THHSC programs, but who have met Lifeline income qualifications, are eligible to receive the Lifeline Discount for seven months, which includes a period of 60 days during which the customer may renew their eligibility with LIDA for an additional seven months.

**D. Deposit and Credit Requirements**

1. The Cooperative shall be prohibited from charging a service deposit in order to initiate the Lifeline Program if the eligible customer voluntarily elects to receive toll blocking.

2. The Cooperative may charge a service deposit if the eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program.

3. In instances where the Cooperative may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Cooperative are also applicable to eligible customers for the Lifeline Program.

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TULIA, TEXAS

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**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**V.LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)**

**E. Service Connection Charges**

1. Service connection charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to the Lifeline Program.

2. Service connection charges do apply when:

a. Existing eligible customers request additional non-qualifying services at the time Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated.

b. New customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the Lifeline Program establish service.

c. Customers make subsequent moves or changes after initial connection to the Lifeline Program.

3. In instances where service connection charges apply, customers qualifying for the Lifeline Program may qualify for the Tribal Link-Up Program and may be eligible to receive reduction in the applicable service connection charges as provided in Section 5 of this tariff.

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**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**V. LIFELINE PROGRAM** (Continued)

**F. Lifeline Program Rate Reduction**

**I. Implementation**

The Cooperative shall provide reduced billing to all Lifeline Program eligible customers within its service area in accordance with the Commission's Substantive Rules.

In instances where a customer inquires about participation in the Lifeline Program, the Cooperative shall provide contact information for LIDA



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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program Rate Reduction (Continued)

2. Amounts

The Cooperative shall apply Lifeline Program rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below.

- |  | <u>Monthly<br/>Rate Reduction</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| a. Federal Lifeline support amount per month or equal to the support amount as directed by the Federal Communications Commission in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.403 regarding Lifeline support. | up to \$9.25                      |
| b. Maximum state reduction to Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rate.   | up to \$3.50                      |

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**ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**